

Statement on the Women Convention on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy in the Rwenzori region at Lisieux Hotel, Fort Portal ,13th December 2021.

Theme: "From the Ground -Up; Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy in the Rwenzori region":

We the undersigned stakeholders from the Rwenzori region gathered at Lesieux Hotel Fort Portal, to discuss the up surge of child marriage and Teenage pregnancies in the Rwenzori region under the space organised by Action for Women Foundation (AWF) in partnership with Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ) with support from UN Women under the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund;

Aware that child marriage and teenage pregnancies remain major life experiences for adolescent girls in our communities, and that the continuity of these practices is due to the parenting gaps, Gender-Based Violence in homes; and the sticky norms rooted in the traditional cultural perceptions about the definition of childhood (girlhood) and transition to adulthood (womanhood);

Aware that the vice has been greatly magnified by the ongoing closure of educational institutions due to COVID-19;

And that men and boys are at the epicentre of propagating teenage pregnancy and child marriages in communities;

Cognizant of the need to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy through multiple integrated holistic programming that involves multiple actors, and creating synergies in addressing multiple needs of the communities;

Acknowledging the role being played by different stakeholders, including CSOs, human rights organisations, police and judicial structures, religious and cultural institutions, among others in addressing sexual and gender based violence (SGBV);

And that safeguarding and protecting children from harm and abuse in communities is our collective responsibility;

We hereby commit ourselves to the following:

ASASIRA AALALIT
27. *Asasira*

Rev. Kabyo Sarah
28. *Kabyo*

- To raise awareness of and promote positive parenting strategies, and create time for our children in matters of growth and development, sex education and the transition from childhood to adulthood;
- To always identify, report and refer cases of child marriage and teenage pregnancy happening in our communities and families to the relevant stakeholders such as police, religious and cultural leaders among others;
- To explore ways of improving family livelihoods to enhance our ability to keep children in school as one way of reducing their vulnerabilities that lead them into early sexual activities, and empowering them with rightful information;
- To sensitize families and communities to address the causes of violence in homes;
- To be examples to our children in modelling good behaviour in homes and communities;

We therefore implore:

- Stakeholders in the region to use the victim-centred and multi-stakeholder approaches in handling defilement which in most times results into teenage pregnancy;
- The probation and child protection officers to engage with parents in relation to their responsibilities for children (care, support and guidance) especially supporting children's education through provision of basic necessities and following up their academic progress;
- The government to do massive education about laws and policies on children's rights to dispel some of the misinterpretations around these laws;
- All stakeholders to adopt a male-engage approach in advocating for the prevention of violence against children, including child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the Rwenzori region;
- The legal fraternity especially courts of law to ensure that justice is administered to victims in a timely manner without fear, favour and ill will;
- Religious and cultural institutions/leaders in the Rwenzori region to denounce the negative norms and practices that propel child marriage, and to desist from uniting children in marriage because it is against the law;
- The media to sensitize, identify, report and follow up child marriage and teenage pregnancy cases irrespective of the perpetrator; and develop and

Handwritten signature in blue ink: Stephen Kamukama Jamifu

produce advocacy messages to end the vice; and to do gender-responsive reporting in matters of Gender-Based Violence in communities;

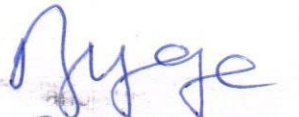
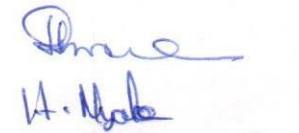
- The government through the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to put to proper use available resources, and strengthen referral pathways in the fight against child marriage and teenage pregnancy;
- The police to increase visibility of female police officers at police stations and outposts to effectively respond to Gender-Based Violence/Violence Against Children cases in communities;
- The police to quicken the investigation of GBV/VAC cases expeditiously to enhance access to justice for victims and survivors in communities;
- The police to create an enabling and friendly environment at police stations for victims and survivors of violence to open up and access the justice they deserve;
- Policy makers to make and popularise laws and policies against teenage pregnancy and child marriage in communities;

END



29. ~~Flordace~~
KINSHASA
(kinshasa@yaleo.com.ug)

Signed by:


1. Biringe Peter Olivi
2. Sarah Rugumayo
3. Ayegga Julian Sarah
4. Harriet Nyakake
5. S&P Atuharik Maureen
6. Asimwe Zainab
7. Nanyunzi Cathie
8. Maurice Ompot
9. Asingwire Grace
10. Kyansemeza Monica
11. Kawugi Gorez
12. NINDIIMA CHRISTINE
13. Birra Juliet


Nyagye
Bwabwa

H. Mub

Ag. CP/CPD 
SPSWO - Kasere 

ANWF 

Grace





Communique

13/12/2021

14. Anita Indao ~~NIH~~
15. Kabagenyi Rose ~~rose kabagenyi~~
16. KENYONZI DOREEN ~~D~~
17. Muzomba Harriet ~~Harriet~~
18. KARUNGU MARGARET ~~MARGARET~~
19. Mubasa Joseline @Lina ~~M~~
20. NIGHI OLIVER ~~NIGHI~~
21. Kabaguma Annet ~~Annet~~
22. Kabasomi Scovia *
23. Abong Pamela Grace ~~Grace~~
24. Mbambu Naome ~~Naome~~
25. Birungi ANGIELLA ~~Angella~~
26. Emmanuel Twesige (PPS) ~~Emmanuel~~